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ABSTRACT

Twenty-seven (77.1%) of the thirty-five 1977 graduates of the South Georgia Colleges' Division of Nursing responded to a follow-up survey, producing the following information: (1) 17 were employed full-time, two were employed part-time, and eight were unemployed; (2) 88.9% agreed they were prepared adequately for the state board examination; (3) 77.8% felt that the nursing curriculum met their expectations; (4) clinical training was judged adequate in all areas but emergency room techniques; (5) obstetrical, surgical, medical, and psychiatric areas reflected a high level of agreement on training adequacy; (6) needs cited for additional learning were in clinical and hospital experiences and improved emergency room training. Recommendations for future program development included textbook reassessment, additional courses in math and bio-chemistry, and more emphasis on in-class techniques. The questionnaire is appended. (RT)

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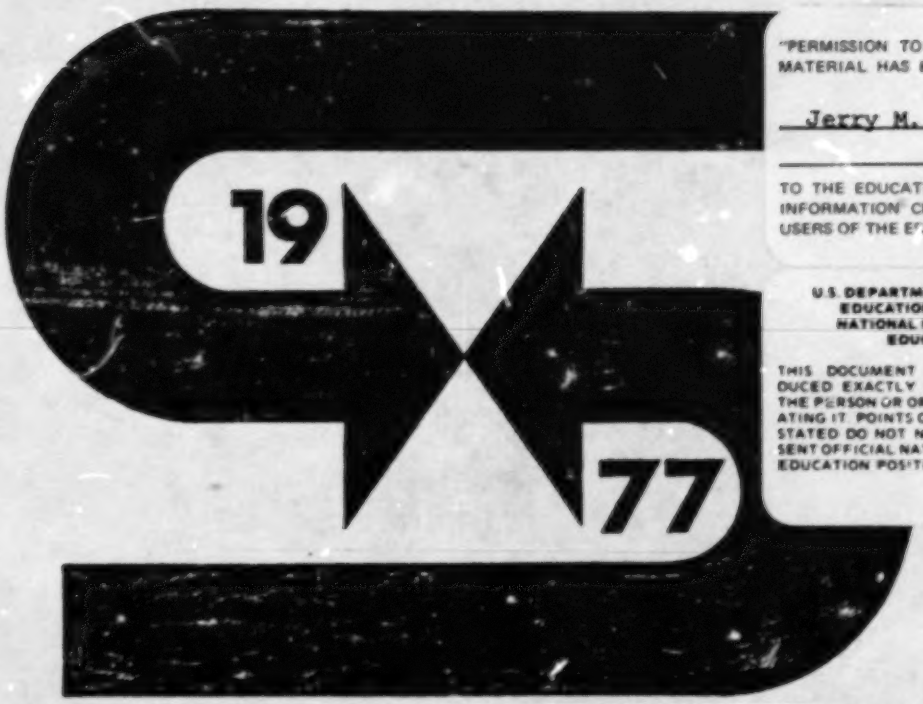
SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

A FOLLOW-UP STUDY



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THE REGISTERED NURSES PROGRAM

Center For Institutional Research and Planning

Dr. Jerry M. Kondwros, Director

JC 780 066

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A FOLLOW-UP SURVEY AND ANALYSIS OF THE REGISTERED NURSES PROGRAM AT SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

PART I: INTRODUCTION

The Division of Nursing is a member agency of the Department of Associate Degree and Higher Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing and is working toward accreditation by the National League.

The Nursing Program is approved by the Board of Examiners of Nurses for Georgia. The Nursing Division now offers one program leading to an Associate Degree in Nursing and is open to all students who meet the admissions requirements. The basic graduate of this program is eligible to take the examination for license as a Registered Nurse. This program was planned to qualify graduates for beginning practice in hospitals, clinics, public health offices, physicians' offices, schools, and industry.

Need for the Survey

This survey was instigated based upon the conviction by the nursing faculty that self-evaluation is essential to improve the educative process. The 1977 graduates were considered a valuable source of information in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum because they can speak from their own experience as to whether the Nursing Program is preparing people to meet the nursing needs of the State of Georgia. In the follow-up study, the graduates supplied information concerning professional employment, student characteristics, professional activities, and opinions concerning the elements which contributed most to their education and suggestions for improvement of the curriculum.

Methodology

The South Georgia College Division of Nursing had thirty-five(35) graduates in June, 1977. These graduates constituted the subjects for this study. Of this group eighteen(18) passed the state board test and were Registered Nurses. The remaining seventeen(17) were to be retested in February,1978.

A questionnaire was developed so that the majority of the questions could be answered with ease. Most of the questions concerned with the curriculum were open-ended to encourage the respondents to express their own opinions without fixed suggestions. Respondents were encouraged to respond frankly.

Due to the small size of the population, questionnaires were mailed to all nursing graduates of the 1977 class. A letter explaining the purpose of the study and a copy of the questionnaire was mailed to each of the thirty-five(35) graduates. Approximately three weeks after the initial mailing, a second letter and another copy of the questionnaire was mailed to those graduates who had not responded to the first letter. This procedure produced five additional responses. During the early part of October, telephone calls were made to graduates who had not returned their questionnaires. These graduates were asked for their cooperation in the project. One additional response was obtained. A copy of the letters and the questionnaire may be found in the Appendix.

The total number of responses was twenty-seven(27) or 77.1% of the 1977 graduates.

The findings of the survey are described in Part II and the report concludes with a summary of the findings in Part III.

PART II: FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The findings of the survey are described in this section according to the following breakout: (A) selected characteristics, (B) professional study, and (C) opinions concerning the Nursing Program.

A. Selected Characteristics

Sex

The overall response rate from the 1977 nursing graduates was considered good with 77.1 percent of the graduates completing and returning the questionnaire. Table I reflects the number and percentage of respondents by sex.

TABLE I
Total Number of Respondents by Sex

	Male	Female	Total
Total in Class	2	33	35
Total Respondents	2	25	27
Percentage	100%	75.8%	77.14%

Age

All respondents reported their current age at the time of the survey. It should be noted that age categories were grouped into seven year intervals for ease of analysis. Table II revealed that the majority of the respondents (63 percent) were in the age category 18-25 years old.

TABLE II
Age at Time of Response

Age in Years	Number	Percent
18-25	17	62.96
26-32	4	14.81
33-39	2	7.41
40 +	4	14.81
Total	27	100.00

Employment Characteristics

Of the twenty-seven(27) respondents in the class of 1977, seventeen(17) or 62.9% indicated they were working full-time (more than 36 hours per week) as a Registered or Graduate Nurse. Two or 7.4% indicated they were employed part-time(less than 35 hours per week) while 8 or 29.6% indicated they were not employed. Table III presents a distribution of the field(s) in which the responding graduates indicated they were employed.

TABLE III
Field(s) of Employment

Area	Employed Full-time	Employed Part-time	Total
Pediatrics	1	0	1
Medical	4	0	4
Surgical	3	0	3
Obstetrical	4	0	4
Psychiatric	0	0	0
General	4	1	5
Other	-	-	-
Dermatology	1	0	1
Gynecology	1	0	1
Geriatric	1	0	1
ICC - CCU	2	0	2
Office	0	1	1
Orthopedics	1	0	1
Total	22	2	24*

*Employment may be in one or more related areas.

Table IV represents the distribution of respondents who indicated professional plans. As per the table, four(4) persons or 14.8% of the respondents indicated that they were presently enrolled in a Baccalaureate Program. Of the remaining twenty-three(23) graduates, sixteen(16) indicated they plan to enroll in a Baccalaureate Program in the future. Only two(2) persons were currently enrolled in an in-service program.

TABLE IV
Professional Plans

Program	Presently Enrolled	Plan to Enroll	Undecided	Total
Baccalaureate Program	4	16	7	27
In-service Program	2	8	17	27

B. Professional Study

An important consideration of the follow-up study was the respondents' evaluation about the effectiveness of the nursing curriculum. The data indicate the extent of agreement or disagreement to statements relative to certain aspects of the nursing curriculum as reflected on the questionnaire.

The data in this section are presented in the form of mean scores, frequencies, and percentages. Interpretation of the mean shall be as follows:

1 = strongly agree
2 = agree
3 = disagree
4 = strongly disagree

Mean scores of 1.00 through 2.50 indicate agreement with

1.00 reflecting strong agreement. Mean scores of 2.50 through 4.00 indicate disagreement with 4.00 indicating strong disagreement. For ease of analysis statements are presented in two tables. Table V reflects the graduates opinion about (1) state board preparation and (2) personal expectations of the curriculum. Table VI addresses the adequacy of clinical training received by speciality areas.

TABLE V
Curriculum Questions

Statement	Response by Percentage				Mean Response
	1 SA	2 A	3 D	4 SD	
The nursing curriculum at SGC adequately prepared me for the state board exam.	18.5	70.4	11.1	0	1.93
The nursing curriculum at SGC met my expectations.	3.7	74.1	22.2	0	2.19

Table V revealed that 18.5% or 5 of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the nursing curriculum at South Georgia College adequately prepared them for the state board exam. Additionally, 70% or 19 of the respondents were in agreement with this statement. By collasping the response percentages in the "SA" and "A", the data revealed that 88.9% or 24 of the respondents received adequate state board preparation. On the other hand, 11.1% or 3 of the respondents indicated the nursing program at South Georgia College did not adequately prepare them for the state board exam. However, the overall mean score of 1.93 indicated adequate state board preparation.

When respondents were asked if the nursing curriculum at South Georgia College met their expectation, a total of 77.8% ("SA" and "A") or 21 respondents agreed. On the other hand, 22.2% or 6 persons disagreed. The overall mean score 2.19 indicated the nursing curriculum met the respondents' expectations.

These results,once again, represent 77.1% of the total nursing students who graduated during June, 1977, and should provide constructive insight into the attitudes of the graduates about the effectiveness of the Nursing Program at South Georgia College. The data presented in Table VI represent the respondents' opinion regarding the adequacy of training received in ten(10) clinical areas.

TABLE VI
Clinical Training

Statement	Response by Percentage				Mean Response
	1 SA	2 A	3 D	4 SD	
I received adequate clinical training in:					
A. Pharmacology	3.7	70.4	25.9	0.0	2.22
B. Pediatric Nursing	11.1	66.6	14.8	7.5	2.19
C. Medical Nursing	33.3	62.9	3.7	0.0	1.70
D. Surgical Nursing	40.7	55.6	3.7	0.0	1.63
E. Psychiatric	14.8	77.8	7.4	0.0	1.93
F. Obstetrical	55.6	33.3	11.1	0.0	1.55
G. Intensive Care	11.1	59.3	29.6	0.0	2.19
H. Operating Room	11.1	70.4	18.5	0.0	2.07
I. Emergency Room	0.0	37.0	59.3	3.7	2.66
J. Procedures	22.2	55.5	22.2	0.0	2.00

Analysis of Table VI revealed the highest rated area of clinical training received to be in obstetrical nursing. The mean score was 1.55 (approximately 55 percent) or fifteen(15) respondents were in strong agreement with this statement and felt they had received adequate training in this area. On the other hand, the clinical training area which received the lowest overall rating was emergency room. This area possessed a mean score of 2.66 indicating disagreement by 63 percent or seventeen (17) respondents.

Further examination of Table VI (collasping the "SA" and "A" columns) indicated the following positive attitudes toward the adequacy of clinical training received at South Georgia College:

(1) 96.3 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 1.70) that they received adequate clinical training in Medical Nursing.

(2) 96.3 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 1.63) that they received adequate clinical training in Surgical Nursing.

(3) 92.6 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 1.93) that they received adequate clinical training in Psychiatric Nursing.

(4) 81.5 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 2.07) that they received adequate clinical training in Operating Room.

(5) 77.8 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 2.00) that they received adequate clinical training in Procedures.

(6) 77.8 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 2.19) that they received adequate clinical training in Pediatric Nursing.

(7) 74.0 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 2.22) that they received adequate clinical training in Pharmacology.

(8) 70.3 percent of the respondents agreed ($\bar{X}$ = 2.19) that they received adequate clinical training in Intensive Care.

A point which bears emphasizing is that the data presented in Table VI indicated agreement (mean scores) by the respondents

that adequate training was received in nine of the ten speciality areas. The exception being emergency room training.

C: Opinions Concerning the RN Program

The graduates were asked to respond to the open-ended question: "What additional kinds of learning experiences could the college have provided you?" As expected a variety of responses were elicited. The majority of which centered on the curriculum. The responses were classified under the headings of (1) curriculum and (2) specific courses. The kinds of additional learning experiences desired by the respondents are listed in Table VII.

TABLE VII
Additional Learning Experiences

Learning Desired	Frequency
A. Curriculum	
More Clinical Experience	5
More Experiences in hospitals	5
More Practical Experience	3
More Practice in Laboratory	3
Closer Personal Supervision	2
More Equipment	2
Professional Seminars in each area	1
Job Placement	1
B. Specific Training	
Improved Emergency Room Training	5
More Psychiatric Training	2
More Pediatrics	2
More in-depth Nutrition	1
Leadership Techniques	1

The most frequently cited additional experiences were more clinical experiences (5); more experience in hospitals (5); and improve emergency room training (5).

The following are some specific replies included under each category listed in Table VII:

* CURRICULUM:

Increased Clinical Experience

"More clinical experience covering practical aspects of nursing."

"More clinical - more patients per student - more realistic of actual working conditions."

"More experience in facilities for clinical experiences."

Increased Hospital Experiences

"More experience in different hospitals and institutions."

"Should have more opportunities to do procedures in the hospitals; more practicing in the classroom lab."

"Should have longer hours at the hospital."

"More on-the-job training; assist doctors; let student be in charge (very important)."

Professional Seminars

"Have some professional seminars in each area of nursing profession; also have guest speakers informing students of the various types of work in the nursing field."

* SPECIFIC TRAINING:

Improved Emergency Room Training

"Would like to see students given an opportunity to work in emergency room on the week-end on no less than an eight hour shift."

"More time in emergency room."

"More emergency room experience."

Leadership Techniques

"Closer personal supervision while doing procedures and practicing them."

"How to get along with aides and LPN's that have more working experience than a graduate RN."

* SATISFACTION WITH EDUCATION:

"Ms. Hipp and the rest of the nursing faculty are fantastic! I love them."

"I found the program satisfactory to meet my needs. I feel adequately prepared to handle my job and made very good scores on the state board."

"My time at South Georgia College was well rewarding."

The graduates were also asked to respond to the following question: "What recommendations do you have for the Nursing Program for the future?" As with the preceeding question, the responses elicited varied considerably. They were, however, some recommendations that occurred more frequently than others as indicated in Table VIII.

The most frequent recommendations made by the respondents included: much more clinical (4), workbook review (3), more math courses (2), and maintain high standards (3).

TABLE VIII
Respondents' Recommendations for the Future

Recommendations	Frequency
*Curriculum	
Much more clinical	4
Workbook Review	3
Bickley	3
More Team Leading	2
Smaller Classes	2
State Board Preparation	2
More Emphasis on Workbook	2
More Team Nursing	1
Observe More Deliveries	1
Longer Classroom Hours	1
More Student and Teacher Time	1
More Equipment in Laboratory	1
More Experience in Specialized Areas	1
Spend One Quarter in Hospital Training	1
*Specific Courses	
More Math Courses	2
Bio-chemistry for Nursing	1
More Psychiatric Nursing	1
Separate Course in Pediatrics	1
*General Policies for the Future	
Maintain High Standards	3
Become a Baccalaureate Program	1

The following are some specific replies included under each category list in Table VIII.

* CURRICULUM:

Much more clinical

"Have more clinical experience on all shifts."

"More clinical lab for sophomores. It is rough when the hospitals do not have an orientation and you are charge nurse after the first week."

Workbook review

"If you have a workbook for learning experience, go over the workbook in class."

"Workbook should be optional for every individual."

Bickley

"Bickley had nothing in it except frustration."

"There was no real Bickley on the state board except on the extra no count question."

"Continue to have Bickley, but make it required and possibly have a separate course to teach it."

Smaller Classes

"Smaller classes enabling students to have individual help."

"Smaller classes and closer supervision and help."

State Board Preparation

"Spend one quarter on each of the five areas covered on the state board."

"One quarter of fundamentals, one quarter of medical, one quarter of surgical, one quarter of obstetrics and psychiatric, one quarter of pediatrics, and one quarter reviewing."

More Team Leading

"Students should have a chance to take doctors' orders and more team leading."

"More team leading - student in charge. The student could benefit from working directly with an RN for at least 2 weeks."

* GENERAL POLICIES FOR THE FUTURE:

Maintain high standards

"Close critical screening of students, taking only those who show special interests and abilities."

"Start off strict in the very beginning; demand high expectations of each student."

Become a Baccalaureate Program

"B.S. in Nursing."

* SATISFACTION WITH EDUCATION:

"Continue as is."

"None, very successful."

"The program itself is good."

"Continue to be the kind understanding group you are."

The final question asked the 1977 graduates was: "What can the college do for you as an alumnus?" This question elicited the following responses:

"It can give me permission to use the library by issuing me an alumni card."

"Send information on classes offered in the area as review for state boards for those who did not pass the first time."

"Try to get NLN accreditation."

"Keep me informed of any additional courses offered at SGC."

"Offer continuing education courses and seminars on areas of interest in nursing."

"Have a job-profession listing to help graduates find good paying jobs."

"Don't forget the alumni and keep in touch."

"Make the program a better one for the future students."

PART III: SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The respondents of the follow-up study were the 1977 graduates of the RN Program at South Georgia College. A total return rate of 77.1% or twenty-seven returns was used as the data base for this study. Of the twenty-seven respondents in the class of 1977, seventeen or 62.9% were employed full-time as nurses, 7.4% were employed part-time and 29.6% of the respondents were not employed.

When respondents were asked to evaluate the adequacy of the nursing curriculum, state board preparation and clinical training, the following results surfaced:

(1) 88.9% agreed that South Georgia College adequately prepared them for the state board exam (Table V).

(2) 77.8% agreed that the nursing curriculum at South Georgia College met their expectations (Table V).

(3) The respondents indicated (mean score) that adequate clinical training was received in nine of the ten clinical areas. The exception being emergency room training (Table VI).

(4) The clinical areas which reflected a high level of agreement ($\bar{X}$ = 1.00-1.99) on the adequacy of training were: obstetrical, surgical, medical, and psychiatric (Table VI).

(5) The clinical areas which reflected average agreement (X = 2.00-2.49) on the adequacy of training were: procedures, operating room, intensive care, pediatrics, and pharmacology (Table VI).

(6) The most frequently cited needs for additional learning experiences were: more clinical experience, more experience in hospitals and improved emergency room training (Table VII).

(7) The most frequently cited recommendations for future programs highlighted the need for more clinical experience, an assessment of Bickley and the workbook, additional courses in math and bio-chemistry and more emphasis on in-class techniques (Table VIII).

* RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations were formulated on the basis of the information provided by the graduates as a result of this follow-up study:

*That the nursing faculty evaluate the implications of this data in regard to two major areas:

(1) The positive statements made relative to the nursing curriculum, specific courses, and satisfaction with education as they relate to the continuance and reinforcement of current practices.

(2) The suggestions included in the sections dealing with nursing functions, curriculum, specific courses, and open-ended questions as they relate to curriculum development, specifically in terms of:

(a) amount of clinical experience received and

(b) resources and procedures for improving the clinical training in emergency room techniques.

APPENDIX

South Georgia College
Douglas, Georgia 31533
912-384-1100

We are beginning follow-up research in Nursing to assist us with plans for the future. Will you please take a few minutes to fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire? Please return before September 28, 1977.

Good luck and God-speed in your present endeavors. Please remember to refer your friends and acquaintances to us. If we can ever help you in any way, please call on us.

Best wishes,

Mary I. Hipp
Chairperson
Division of Nursing

MIH/lw

Enclosures (2)

South Georgia College
Douglas, Georgia 31533
912-384-1100

In an effort to make the nursing program at South Georgia College one of the best, we need your assistance. Only you can assess the value of the professional training which you have received. Won't you take a few minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the research office by October 12, 1977?

Our goal is to achieve a 100% response rate from the nursing graduates. So far, 70% of your classmates have responded. Join their ranks and return the questionnaire today!

Best regards,

Jerry M. Kondwros
Director
Research and Planning

JMK:lw

Enclosures(2)

Form 10
ID ____

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RN PROGRAM
AT
SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE

I. Biographic Information

A. NAME: _____
Last First Middle Maiden(if married)

B. ADDRESS: _____

C. Title of your present position: _____

D. Name and Address
of employing agency: _____

E. Name of your immediate supervisor: _____

F. Your Sex:

1.[ ] Male
2.[ ] Female

G. AGE:

1.[ ] 18-25 years old
2.[ ] 26-32 years old
3.[ ] 33-39 years old
4.[ ] 40 and over

H. Are you working as a registered nurse?(check one)

1.[ ] Yes, full-time(more than 36 hours per week)
2.[ ] Yes, part-time(less than 35 hours per week)
3.[ ] No

I. In which field(s) are you now working?

1.[ ] Pediatrics Nursing
2.[ ] Medical Nursing
3.[ ] Surgical Nursing
4.[ ] Obstetrical Nursing
5.[ ] Psychiatric Nursing
6.[ ] General Nursing
7.[ ] Other _____
8.[ ] Not working

J. Are you presently enrolled in a baccalaureate program?

1.[ ] Yes
2.[ ] No

K. Are you presently enrolled in an in-service program(speciality areas)?

1.[ ] Yes
2.[ ] No

L. Do you plan to enroll in a baccalaureate program?

1.[ ] Yes
2.[ ] No

M. Do you plan to enroll in an in-service program(speciality areas)?

1.[ ] Yes
2.[ ] No

II.

The following items relate in some way to the RN Program at South Georgia College. Please choose the answer which most clearly expresses how you feel about each item. For each statement four(4) possible responses are given, the numbers stand for:

1 = SA:strongly agree
2 = A :agree
3 = D :disagree
4 = SD:strongly disagree

Please put an [x] in the box that best expresses your feelings about each statement or item.

	1 SA	2 A	3 D	4 SD
A. The nursing program at SGC adequately prepared me for the State Board Exam(NTPE).	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
B. The nursing curriculum at SGC met my expectations.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
C. I received adequate clinical training in: PHARMACOLOGY	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
PEDIATRIC NURSING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
MEDICAL NURSING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
SURGICAL NURSING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
PSYCHIATRIC NURSING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
OBSTETRICAL NURSING	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
INTENSIVE CARE	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
OPERATING ROOM	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
EMERGENCY ROOM	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
PROCEDURES	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
OTHER_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

III.

A. What additional kinds of learning experiences could the college have provided you?

B. What recommendations do you have for the nursing program for the future?

C. What can the college do for you as an alumnus?

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

FEB 24 1978

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